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PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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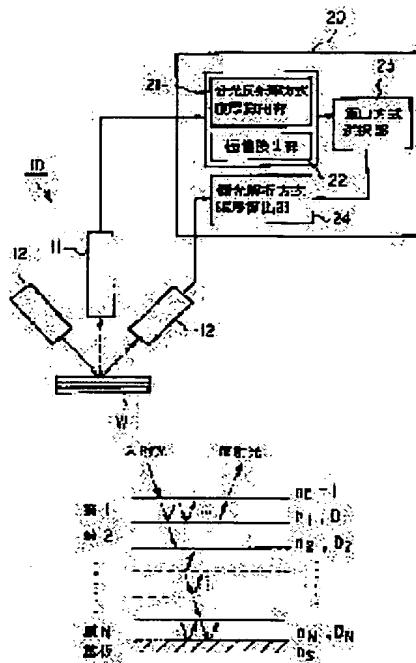
(21)Application number : 10-070888 (71)Applicant : TOSHIBA CORP
 (22)Date of filing : 19.03.1998 (72)Inventor : YAMADA WATARU

(54) FILM THICKNESS MEASURING METHOD AND FILM THICKNESS MEASURING APPARATUS

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a film thickness measuring method and a film thickness measuring apparatus which are capable of highly precise measurement in the case of multilayer film structure.

SOLUTION: This film thickness measuring method is provided with a first measuring process in which a specimen W is irradiated with a light, the reflected light is detected, film thickness range of a lower layer of a multilayer film is determined by a spectral reflectance system or a white light interference system, and the film thickness range of the uppermost layer is determined, and a second measuring process in which, on the basis of the film thickness range of the uppermost layer which is obtained by the first measuring process, the specimen W is irradiated with a polarized light, the state of polarization of the reflected light is analyzed, and the film thickness D1 of the uppermost layer is measured.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The thickness-measurement method which measures the thickness of the best layer of the multilayer formed in the sample front face characterized by providing the following. The 1st measurement process which determines the thickness range of the aforementioned best layer while carrying out incidence of the light to the aforementioned sample, detecting the reflected light and a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method determining the lower layer thickness range of the aforementioned multilayer. The 2nd measurement process which is made to carry out incidence of the light which polarized to the aforementioned sample based on the thickness range of the aforementioned best layer obtained in this 1st measurement process, analyzes the polarization state of the reflected light, and measures the thickness of the aforementioned best layer.

[Claim 2] The aforementioned 1st measurement process is the thickness calculation method according to claim 1 which computes the thickness of the aforementioned best layer from the difference of the maximal value and the minimal value of a reflectance spectrum.

[Claim 3] Thickness-measurement equipment which measures the thickness of the best layer of the multilayer formed in the sample front face characterized by providing the following. The 1st test section which is made to carry out incidence of the light to the aforementioned sample, detects the reflected light, and determines the lower layer thickness range of the aforementioned multilayer, and the thickness range of the best layer with a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method. The 2nd test section which is made to carry out incidence of the light which polarized to the aforementioned sample based on the thickness range of the aforementioned best layer obtained in this 1st test section, analyzes the polarization state of the reflected light, and measures the thickness of the aforementioned best layer. The calculation method selection section which chooses a calculation method according to the thickness measured.

[Claim 4] The aforementioned calculation method selection section is thickness-measurement equipment according to claim 3 characterized by measuring by the 2nd test section of the above when the thickness computed by the 1st test section of the above is below given thickness.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] this invention relates to the method and equipment which measure the existence of the multilayered film formed on the substrate using the system of measurement having a polarization analysis method, a spectral-reflectance method, or a white interference method, or thickness.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] As a method which performs the thickness measurement of the thin film formed in the sample front face, the polarization analysis method, the spectral-reflectance method, or the white interference method is learned.

[0003] The gain ($\tan\psi$) and phase contrast (**) of a polarization component (P polarization) and the component (S polarization) to a direction perpendicular to this to a direction parallel to plane of incidence are measured by the polarization analysis method, and these are the functions of a refractive index n and Thickness D.

[0004] SiO₂ formed on Si substrate as an example The relation of the $\tan\psi$, **, and thickness D1 which are measured to a film (0A - 2500A) is shown in (a) of drawing 7. Based on this relation, thickness D1 can be computed by the ability to measure $\tan\psi$ and **.

[0005] However, by the polarization analysis method, the property of the thickness calculation algorithm to measuring range is narrow, and a thick film cannot be measured. That is, (a) of drawing 7 shows $\tan\psi$ in the case of being a monolayer (D2=0 A), **, and the relation of D1, when there is no lower layer.

[0006] However, when a lower layer exists (i.e., when it is a multilayer (D2 ≠ 0 A)), as shown in (b) of drawing 7, two or more $\tan\psi$ and ** will exist. $\tan\psi$ in case D2 is 0, 500, and 1000 or 1500A, and ** are shown in (b) of drawing 7. Moreover, by the case of D2=0 A, and the case of D2=1500 A, a part of $\tan\psi$ and ** have lapped and distinguishing becomes difficult.

[0007] On the other hand, a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method has the method of computing thickness by fitting [method / a reflectance spectrum and a theoretical spectrum] using a global-or a optimization technology by making thickness into a parameter, and the method of computing thickness from the feature of package connection of a reflectance spectrum as indicated by JP,7-63524,A and JP,8-20223,B as indicated by JP,7-55435,B and JP,2-251711,B.

[0008] Although these spectral-reflectance methods or a white interference method reaches far and wide compared with the polarization analysis method mentioned above and can measure thickness, in a thin film 500A or less, its change of as opposed to the wavelength of a theoretical spectrum wave in thickness is small, and it cannot compute thickness with a sufficient precision. Moreover, thickness is uncomputable unless the refractive index of an object film is known beforehand.

[0009] Since **** between the above is solved, the system of measurement which has the advantage of both a polarization analysis method, a spectral-reflectance method, or a white interference method can be considered. As such a thing, there are some which are indicated by JP,5-71923,A, for example.

[0010] That is, the thickness of several 1000A which computes thickness by the polarization analysis method based on the control value of the thickness of the thin film given beforehand if it is about several 100A thickness, and cannot be measured by the polarization analysis method — 10 micrometers of numbers is measured by the spectral-reflectance method or the white interference method. What was measured with the polarization analysis method is used for the refractive index which is needed with a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method.

[0011]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] There were the following problems in the above-mentioned conventional thickness-measurement method. namely, the time of the film with which this was formed on the substrate being a monolayer, although a polarization analysis method measures $\tan\psi$ and ** and Thickness D is measured — seeing — a chisel — since two or more $\tan\psi$ and **s will come out as shown in (b) of drawing 7 if lower layer thickness differs even when the thickness of the best film is the same when it is a multilayer as it is effective, and a measuring object film boils and shown, thickness cannot be determined.

[0012] Moreover, in order to choose a **** polarization analysis method, a spectral-reflectance method, or a white interference method for the control value information on the thickness of a thin film beforehand, **** with unfixed thickness had which measurement method is chosen and the problem that it could not determine.

[0013] Then, even if this invention is multilayer structure, it aims at offering the thickness-measurement method and thickness-measurement equipment which can perform highly precise measurement.

[0014]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem and to attain the purpose, invention indicated by the claim 1 While carrying out incidence of the light to the aforementioned sample, detecting the reflected light in the thickness-measurement method which measures the thickness of the best layer of the multilayer formed in the sample front face and a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method determining the lower layer thickness range of the aforementioned multilayer It had the 2nd measurement process which is made to carry out incidence of the light which polarized to the aforementioned sample based on the thickness range of the aforementioned best layer obtained in the 1st measurement process which determines the thickness range of the aforementioned best layer, and this 1st measurement process, analyzes the polarization state of the reflected light, and measures the thickness of the aforementioned best layer.

[0015] In invention indicated by the claim 2 was indicated to be by the claim 1, it was presupposed to the aforementioned 1st measurement process that the thickness of the aforementioned best layer is computed from the difference of the maximal value and the minimal value of a reflectance spectrum.

[0016] In the thickness-measurement equipment which measures the thickness of the best layer of the multilayer by which invention indicated by the claim 3 was formed in the sample front face The 1st test section which is made to carry out incidence of the light to the aforementioned sample, detects the reflected light, and determines the lower layer thickness range of the aforementioned multilayer, and the thickness range of the best layer with a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method, It had the 2nd test section which is made to carry out incidence of the light which polarized to the aforementioned sample based on the thickness range of the aforementioned best layer obtained in this 1st test section, analyzes the polarization state of the reflected light, and measures the thickness of the aforementioned best layer, and the calculation method selection section which chooses a calculation method according to the thickness measured.

[0017] In invention indicated by the claim 4 was indicated to be by the claim 3, the aforementioned calculation method selection section was made to measure by the 2nd test section of the above, when the thickness computed by the 1st test section of the above was below given thickness.

[0018] As a result of providing the above-mentioned means, the following operations arise. Namely, while carrying out incidence of the light to a sample, detecting the reflected light in invention indicated by the claim 1 and a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method determining the lower layer thickness range of a multilayer Since determine the thickness range of the best layer, incidence of the light which polarized is carried out to a sample based on this thickness range, the polarization state of the reflected light is analyzed and the thickness of the best layer was measured, when performing polarization analysis, a signal can be separated and it becomes possible to perform a highly precise thickness measurement.

[0019] In invention indicated by the claim 2, since [the 1st measurement process] the thickness of the best layer is computed from the difference of the maximal value and the minimal value of a reflectance spectrum, it can perform a highly precise thickness measurement.

[0020] While carrying out incidence of the light to a sample, detecting the reflected light in invention indicated by the claim 3 and a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method determining the lower layer thickness range of a multilayer, and the thickness range of the best layer Since determine the thickness range of the best layer, incidence of the light which polarized is carried out to a sample based on this thickness range, the polarization state of the reflected light is analyzed and the thickness of the best layer was measured, when performing polarization analysis, a signal can be separated and it becomes possible to perform a highly precise thickness measurement.

[0021] In invention indicated by the claim 4, since the calculation method selection section was made to measure by the 2nd test section when the thickness computed by the 1st test section was below given thickness, it can choose the optimal measurement method according to thickness.

[0022]

[Embodiments of the Invention] Drawing 1 is drawing showing the composition of the thickness-measurement equipment 10 concerning the form of 1 operation of this invention. Thickness-measurement equipment 10 is equipped with the system of measurement 11 of the spectral-reflectance method arranged in the sample W upper part and the system of measurement 12 of a polarization analysis method, and the operation part 20 that computes the thickness of Sample W from these outputs.

[0023] Operation part 20 is equipped with the spectral-reflectance method thickness calculation section 21, the extremal-value detecting element 22, the calculation method selection section 23, and the polarization analysis formula thickness calculation section 24. The calculation method selection section 23 has the function which chooses whether the thickness measurement by the polarization analysis method is performed from the thickness value measured in the spectral-reflectance method thickness calculation section 21.

[0024] Thus, with the constituted thickness-measurement equipment 10, thickness of the best film of the multilayer formed in Sample W as follows is measured. In addition, drawing 2 shows a multilayer typically. Moreover, the thickness of a film K1 is [the thickness of D2, —, Film Kn of the thickness of D1 and a film K2] Dn.

[0025] The thickness of a multilayer is measured by the system of measurement 11 which is a spectral-reflectance method first. In addition, the reflection factor R with film composition as shown in drawing 2 of a multilayer is drawn as follows. However, incidence of the incident light shall be perpendicularly carried out to an object film. The property matrix Mn of Film Kn is shown by the formula (1).

[0026]

[Equation 1]

$$M_n = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_n & i n_n^{-1} \sin \theta_n \\ i n_n \sin \theta_n & \cos \theta_n \end{pmatrix} \quad \dots (1)$$

($\therefore \theta_n : 2\pi n_n d_n / \lambda, \lambda : \text{波長}$)

[0027] Moreover, since it is the property product of matrices of each class, the property matrix M of a multilayer r is [Equation 2].

$$M = \prod M_j = \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & i m_{12} \\ i m_{21} & m_{22} \end{pmatrix} \quad \dots (2)$$

[0028] Therefore, when the amplitude reflectance of the multilayer shown in drawing 2 is set to r, a reflection factor R is shown by the formula (4).

[0029]

[Equation 3]

$$r = \frac{(m_{11} + i m_{12} n_s) - (i m_{21} + i m_{22} n_s)}{(m_{11} + i m_{12} n_s) + (i m_{21} + i m_{22} n_s)} \quad \dots (3)$$

$$R : |r|^2 \quad \dots (4)$$

[0030] Multilayer structure which a film K2 ($n_2 = 2.0$) has on a substrate ($n_s = 3.85 - 0.02i$), and has a film K1 ($n_1 = 4.5 - 0.5i$) on it as shown, for example in drawing 3 here is considered.

[0031] first, thickness $D_2=0$ A when lower layer thickness is known about and Thickness D — the spectrum at the time of the thickness $D_1=0-1000$ A in $2=1500$ A — it seems that a spectrum is shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5. Here, a difference appears in the number of the maximal value or the minimal value, a size, and corresponding wavelength.

[0032] For this reason, the thickness which is the measuring object is separable as rough values, such as $(D_1, D_2) (0-1000$ A, about 0 A) or $(D_1, D_2) = (0-1000$ A, about 1500 A).

[0033] Next, by the system of measurement 12 which is a polarization analysis method, thickness D_1 can be measured based on either of alpha-delta of drawing 7 based on the rough value mentioned above.

[0034] In addition, when the lower layer thickness range is also unknown, the thickness range can be further limited by performing it as follows by the spectral-reflectance method. namely, D — the spectrum at the $1=0$ A time of being $D_2=1500$ A — a spectrum becomes a thing as shown in [epsilon] drawing 5, and the difference C_0 of maximal value $R_{0\max}$ and minimal value $R_{0\min}$ can be expressed as $R_0 \max - R_0 \min$

[0035] the time of the difference C_i measured by the spectral-reflectance method comparing from drawing 6, and being ≈ 0.25 , when the difference C_i of the maximal value and the minimal value in case D_1 is 0A - 1000A similarly is made into $C_i=R_{\max}-R_{\min}$ and thickness D_2 is made into 1500A ≈ 100 A — the thickness's D_1 's existence range — about 160A — or since it becomes 450A — about 550A, the range of thickness D_1 and D_2 can be limited further. The thickness-measurement range by the polarization analysis method can be limited by this, and thickness-measurement precision can be improved.

[0036] Namely, according to the thickness-measurement equipment concerning the gestalt of this operation, even if it can give the unknown sample of thickness If the range of thickness is limited by the spectral-reflectance method and it becomes clear that it is a thin film 1000A or less, a polarization analysis method will perform thickness calculation based on the rough value. Since the measured value in a spectral-reflectance method will be used if it becomes clear that it is the thickness of several 1000A - 10 micrometers of numbers, even if there is no line about thickness information, thickness can be beforehand measured with a sufficient precision. Furthermore, since the rough value of thickness can be calculated by the spectral-reflectance method also in a thin film field, the accuracy of measurement at the time of using a polarization analysis method can be raised.

[0037] Therefore, to a multilayer with arbitrary thickness, thickness can be measured with a sufficient precision until it results [from several 10 micrometers] in a thin film 1000A or less.

[0038] In addition, this invention is not limited to the gestalt of operation. That is, in the gestalt of operation mentioned above, although measured with the spectral-reflectance method, you may measure by the white interference method. In addition, of course, deformation implementation is variously possible in the range which does not deviate from the summary of this invention.

[0039]

[Effect of the Invention] While according to this invention carrying out incidence of the light to a sample, detecting the reflected light and a spectral-reflectance method or a white interference method determining the lower layer thickness range of a multilayer Since determine the thickness range of the best layer, incidence of the light which polarized is carried out to a sample based on this thickness range, the polarization state of the reflected light is analyzed and the thickness of the best layer was measured, when performing polarization analysis, a signal can be separated and it becomes possible to perform a highly precise thickness measurement.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] Drawing showing the composition of the thickness-measurement equipment concerning the form of 1 operation of this invention.

[Drawing 2] Explanatory drawing showing the principle of the thickness measurement by the spectral-reflectance method.

[Drawing 3] Explanatory drawing showing the principle in the case of applying a spectral-reflectance method to a bilayer film.

[Drawing 4] the spectrum at the time of being about D2=0 A — drawing showing a spectrum

[Drawing 5] the spectrum at the time of being about D2=1500 A — drawing showing a spectrum

[Drawing 6] Drawing showing the relation of Ci and D1 at the time of about D2=1500 A.

[Drawing 7] tanpsi obtained by the polarization analysis method, drawing showing the relation of delta D1 and D2.

[Description of Notations]

10 — Thickness-measurement equipment

11 12 — System of measurement

20 — Operation part

21 — Spectral-reflectance method thickness calculation section

22 — Extremal-value detecting element

23 — Calculation method selection section

24 — Polarization analysis method thickness calculation section

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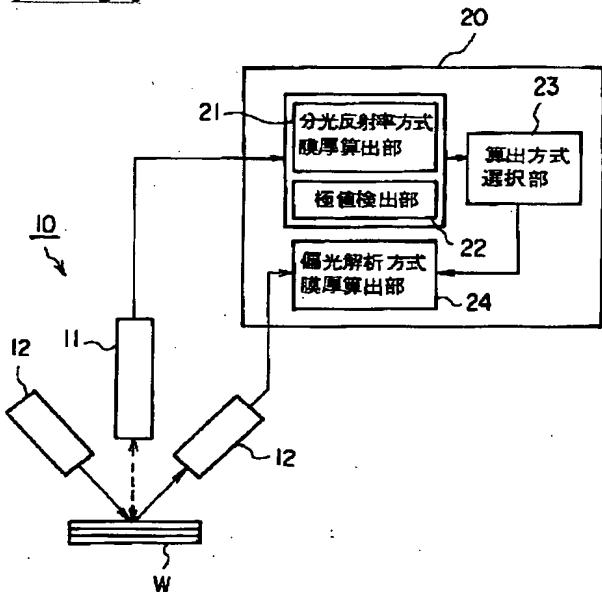
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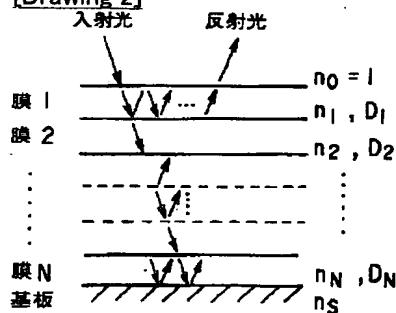
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DRAWINGS

[Drawing 1]



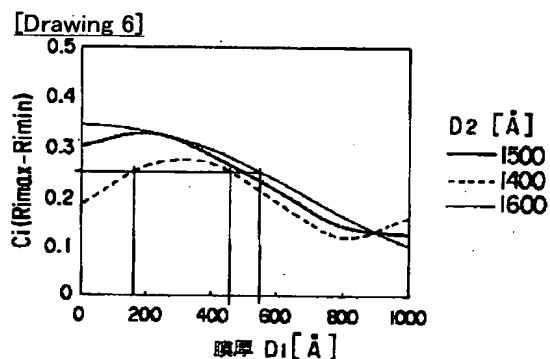
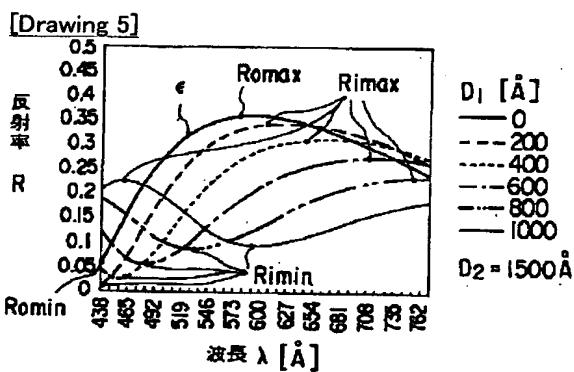
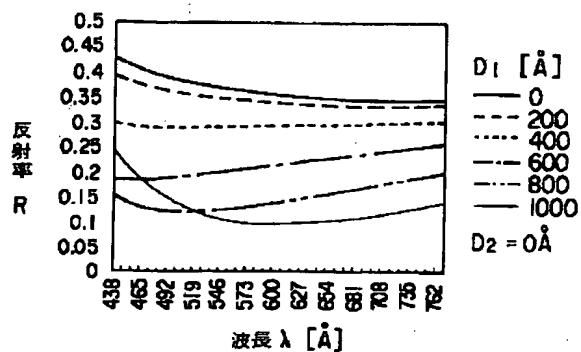
[Drawing 2]



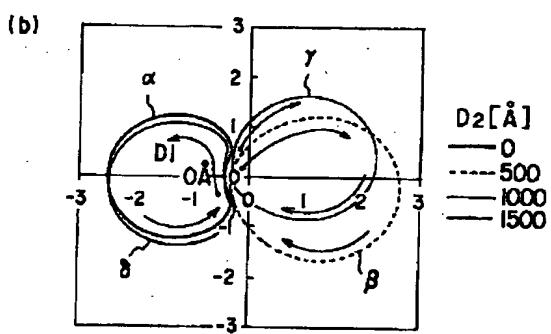
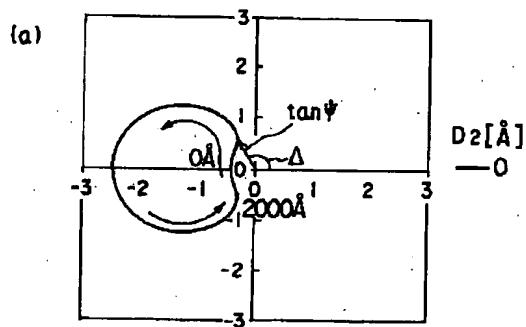
[Drawing 3]

$$\begin{aligned}
 n_0 &= 1 \text{ (空気)} \\
 D_1 &\downarrow \quad \text{膜 1} \quad n_1 = 4.5 - 0.5i \\
 D_2 &\downarrow \quad \text{膜 2} \quad n_2 = 2.0 \\
 &\quad \quad \quad \quad \quad n_s = 3.85 - 0.02i
 \end{aligned}$$

[Drawing 4]



[Drawing 7]



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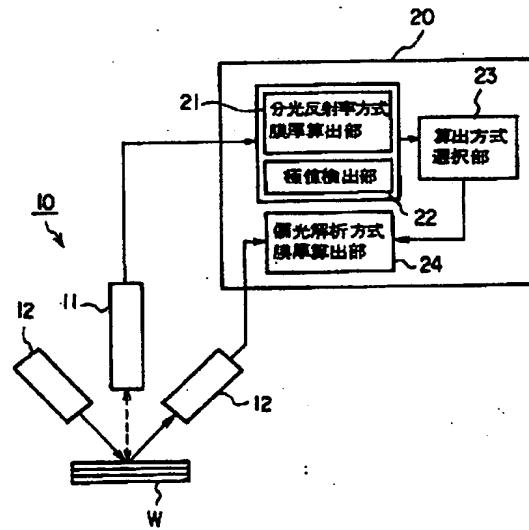
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(54)【発明の名称】 膜厚測定方法及び膜厚測定装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】多層膜構造であっても高精度な測定を行うことができる膜厚測定方法及び膜厚測定装置を提供すること。

【解決手段】試料Wに光を入射させその反射光を検出して分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式により多層膜の下層K2の膜厚範囲を決定するとともに、最上層K1の膜厚範囲を決定する第1測定工程と、この第1測定工程において得られた最上層K1の膜厚範囲に基づいて、偏光した光を試料Wに入射させその反射光の偏光状態を解析して最上層K1の膜厚D1を測定する第2測定工程とを備えるようにした。



【許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】試料表面に形成された多層膜の最上層の膜厚を測定する膜厚測定方法において、前記試料に光を入射させその反射光を検出して分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式により前記多層膜の下層の膜厚範囲を決定するとともに、前記最上層の膜厚範囲を決定する第1測定工程と、この第1測定工程において得られた前記最上層の膜厚範囲に基づいて、偏光した光を前記試料に入射させその反射光の偏光状態を解析して前記最上層の膜厚を測定する第2測定工程とを備えていることを特徴とする膜厚測定方法。

【請求項2】前記第1測定工程は、反射スペクトルの極大値と極小値の差から前記最上層の膜厚を算出する請求項1に記載の膜厚算出方法。

【請求項3】試料表面に形成された多層膜の最上層の膜厚を測定する膜厚測定装置において、前記試料に光を入射させその反射光を検出して分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式により前記多層膜の下層の膜厚範囲と最上層の膜厚範囲を決定する第1測定部と、この第1測定部において得られた前記最上層の膜厚範囲に基づいて、偏光した光を前記試料に入射させその反射光の偏光状態を解析して前記最上層の膜厚を測定する第2測定部と、

測定される膜厚に応じて算出方式を選択する算出方式選択部とを備えていることを特徴とする膜厚測定装置。

【請求項4】前記算出方式選択部は、前記第1測定部によって算出された膜厚が所定厚以下であるときに前記第2測定部により測定を行うようにすることを特徴とする請求項3に記載の膜厚測定装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、偏光解析方式と分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式を併せ持つ測定系を用いて基板上に形成された多層薄膜の有無、あるいは膜厚を測定する方法および装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】試料表面に形成された薄膜の膜厚測定を行う方式として、偏光解析方式や分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式が知られている。

【0003】偏光解析方式により測定されるのは、入射面に平行な方向への偏光成分（P偏光）とこれに垂直な方向への成分（S偏光）との振幅比（ $\tan \Psi$ ）と位相差（△）であり、これらは屈折率nと膜厚Dの関数である。

【0004】一例として、Si基板上に形成されるSiO₂膜（0オングストローム～2500オングストローム）に対して計測される $\tan \Psi$ と△と膜厚Dとの関係を図7の(a)に示す。この関係に基づいて、 $\tan \Psi$ と△を測定して膜厚Dを算出することができる。

【0005】しかしながら、偏光解析方式では、その膜厚算出アルゴリズムの特性から測定範囲が狭く、厚膜は測定できない。すなわち、図7の(a)は下層がない場合、すなわち単層（D2=0オングストローム）の場合における $\tan \Psi$ 、△、D1の関係を示したものである。

【0006】しかし、下層が存在する場合、すなわち多層膜（D2≠0オングストローム）の場合には、図7の(b)に示すように複数の $\tan \Psi$ 、△が存在することになる。図7の(b)には、D2が0, 500, 1000, 1500オングストロームのときの $\tan \Psi$ 、△を示している。また、D2=0オングストロームの場合とD2=1500オングストロームの場合とでは $\tan \Psi$ 、△が一部重なってしまっており、区別することが困難になる。

【0007】一方、分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式は、特公平7-55435、特公平2-251711に開示されているように、膜厚をパラメータとして反射スペクトルと理論スペクトルを大域最適化法を用いてフィッティングして膜厚を算出する方法や、特開平7-63524、特公平8-20223に開示されているように、反射スペクトルの包絡線の特徴から膜厚を算出する方法がある。

【0008】これらの分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式は、上述した偏光解析方式に比べて広範囲にわたり膜厚を測定することができるが、厚さが500オングストローム以下の薄膜では理論スペクトル波形の波長に対する変化が小さく、精度良く膜厚を算出できない。また、予め対象膜の屈折率が既知でないと膜厚を算出すること

30 ができない。

【0009】上記問題点を解決するため、偏光解析方式と分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式双方の利点を兼ね備えた測定系が考えられる。このようなものとしては、例えば特開平5-71923に開示されているものがある。

【0010】すなわち、予め与えられる薄膜の厚さの管理値に基づき、数100オングストローム程度の膜厚なら偏光解析方式にて膜厚を算出し、偏光解析方式で測定できない数1000オングストローム～数10μmの膜厚は分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式で測定する。分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式で必要となる屈折率は、偏光解析方式により測定したものを使う。

【0011】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上記した従来の膜厚測定方法においては、次のような問題があった。すなわち、偏光解析方式は $\tan \Psi$ と△を測定して膜厚Dを測定するが、これは基板上に形成された膜が単層膜であるときのみ有效であり、測定対象膜がに示すような多層膜である場合、最上膜の膜厚が同じでも下層の膜厚が異なると、図7の(b)に示すように $\tan \Psi$ と△が複数

出てくるため膜厚を決定できない。

【0012】また、予め薄膜の厚さの管理値情報を用いて偏光解析方式か分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式を選択するため、膜厚が不定の場合はどちらの測定方式を選択するか決定できないという問題があった。

【0013】そこで、本発明は、多層膜構造であっても高精度な測定を行うことができる膜厚測定方法及び膜厚測定装置を提供することを目的としている。

【0014】

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決し目的を達成するために、請求項1に記載された発明は、試料表面に形成された多層膜の最上層の膜厚を測定する膜厚測定方法において、前記試料に光を入射させその反射光を検出して分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式により前記多層膜の下層の膜厚範囲を決定するとともに、前記最上層の膜厚範囲を決定する第1測定工程と、この第1測定工程において得られた前記最上層の膜厚範囲に基づいて、偏光した光を前記試料に入射させその反射光の偏光状態を解析して前記最上層の膜厚を測定する第2測定工程とを備えるようにした。

【0015】請求項2に記載された発明は、請求項1に記載された発明において、前記第1測定工程は、反射スペクトルの極大値と極小値の差から前記最上層の膜厚を算出することとした。

【0016】請求項3に記載された発明は、試料表面に形成された多層膜の最上層の膜厚を測定する膜厚測定装置において、前記試料に光を入射させその反射光を検出して分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式により前記多層膜の下層の膜厚範囲と最上層の膜厚範囲を決定する第1測定部と、この第1測定部において得られた前記最上層の膜厚範囲に基づいて、偏光した光を前記試料に入射させその反射光の偏光状態を解析して前記最上層の膜厚を測定する第2測定部と、測定される膜厚に応じて算出方式を選択する算出方式選択部とを備えるようにした。

【0017】請求項4に記載された発明は、請求項3に記載された発明において、前記算出方式選択部は、前記第1測定部によって算出された膜厚が所定厚以下であるときに前記第2測定部により測定を行うようにした。

【0018】上記手段を講じた結果、次のような作用が生じる。すなわち、請求項1に記載された発明では、試料に光を入射させその反射光を検出して分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式により多層膜の下層の膜厚範囲を決定するとともに、最上層の膜厚範囲を決定し、この膜厚範囲に基づいて、偏光した光を試料に入射させその反射光の偏光状態を解析して最上層の膜厚を測定するようになので、偏光解析を行う場合において、信号の分離

を行うことができ、高精度な膜厚測定を行うことが可能となる。

【0019】請求項2に記載された発明では、第1測定工程は、反射スペクトルの極大値と極小値の差から最上層の膜厚を算出することとしたので、より高精度な膜厚測定を行うことができる。

【0020】請求項3に記載された発明では、試料に光を入射させその反射光を検出して分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式により多層膜の下層の膜厚範囲と最上層の膜厚範囲を決定するとともに、最上層の膜厚範囲を決定し、この膜厚範囲に基づいて、偏光した光を試料に入射させその反射光の偏光状態を解析して最上層の膜厚を測定するようにしたので、偏光解析を行なう場合において、信号の分離を行うことができ、高精度な膜厚測定を行なうことが可能となる。

【0021】請求項4に記載された発明では、算出方式選択部は、第1測定部によって算出された膜厚が所定厚以下であるときに第2測定部により測定を行うようにしたので、膜厚に応じて最適な測定方式を選択することができる。

【0022】

【発明の実施の形態】図1は本発明の一実施の形態に係る膜厚測定装置10の構成を示す図である。膜厚測定装置10は、試料W上方に配置された分光反射率方式の測定系11及び偏光解析方式の測定系12と、これらの出力から試料Wの膜厚を算出する演算部20とを備えている。

【0023】演算部20は、分光反射率方式膜厚算出部21と、極値検出部22と、算出方式選択部23と、偏光解析法膜厚算出部24とを備えている。算出方式選択部23は分光反射率方式膜厚算出部21で測定された膜厚値から偏光解析方式による膜厚測定を行うか否かを選択する機能を有している。

【0024】このように構成された膜厚測定装置10では、次のようにして試料Wに形成された多層膜の最上膜の膜厚の測定を行う。なお、図2は多層膜を模式的に示したものである。また、膜K1の膜厚はD1、膜K2の膜厚はD2、…、膜Knの膜厚はDnである。

【0025】最初に分光反射率方式である測定系11により、多層膜の膜厚を測定する。なお、図2に示すような膜構成を持つ多層膜の反射率Rは次のようにして導出される。ただし、入射光は対象膜に対し、垂直に入射するものとする。膜Knの特性行列Mnは、式(1)にて示される。

【0026】

【数1】

$$M_n = \begin{pmatrix} \cos g_n & i n_n^{-1} \sin g_n \\ i n_n \sin g_n & \cos g_n \end{pmatrix} \quad \cdots (1)$$

(∴ $g_n : 2\pi n_n d_n / \lambda, \lambda$:波長)

【0027】また、多層膜の特性行列Mは、各層の特性行列の積であるため、*

$$M = \prod M_j = \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & i m_{12} \\ i m_{21} & m_{22} \end{pmatrix} \quad \cdots (2)$$

【0028】よって、図2に示す多層膜の振幅反射率を r とするとき、反射率Rは式(4)にて示される。*

$$r = ((m_{11} + i m_{12} n_s) - (i m_{21} + i m_{22} n_s)) / ((m_{11} + i m_{12} n_s) + (i m_{21} + i m_{22} n_s)) \quad \cdots (3)$$

$$R : |r|^2 \quad \cdots (4)$$

【0030】ここでは、例えば図3に示すように基板 ($n_s = 3.85 - 0.02i$) 上に膜K2 ($n_2 = 2.0$)、その上に膜K1 ($n_1 = 4.5 - 0.5i$) があるような多層膜構造を考える。

【0031】まず、下層の膜厚がおおよそ分かっている場合、すなわち、膜厚D2 = 0 オングストロームと膜厚 D2 = 1500 オングストロームにおける膜厚D1 = 0 ~ 1000 オングストロームのときの分光スペクトルは、図4及び図5に示すようなものとなる。ここで、極大値や極小値の個数や大きさ、対応する波長に違いが現れる。

【0032】このため、測定対象である膜厚を例えば $(D_1, D_2) = (0 \sim 1000 \text{ オングストローム}, 0 \text{ オングストローム近傍})$ あるいは $(D_1, D_2) = (0 \sim 1000 \text{ オングストローム}, 1500 \text{ オングストローム近傍})$ といった概算値として分離することができる。

【0033】次に偏光解析方式である測定系12により、上述した概算値に基づいて図7の $\alpha \sim \delta$ のいずれかに基づいて膜厚D1を測定することができる。

【0034】なお、下層の膜厚範囲も不明な場合、分光反射率方式で以下のようにすることできさらに膜厚範囲を限定できる。すなわち、D1 = 0 オングストローム、D2 = 1500 オングストロームであるときの分光スペクトルは図5中eに示すようなものとなり、極大値 R_{\max} と極小値 R_{\min} の差 C_0 は $R_{\max} - R_{\min}$ と表せる。

【0035】同様にD1が0 オングストローム ~ 1000 オングストロームであるときの極大値と極小値の差 C_i を $C_i = R_{\max} - R_{\min}$ 、とし、膜厚D2を1500 オングストローム ± 100 オングストロームとした場合、図6より、分光反射率方式で測定される差 C_i が例えば0.25のときは膜厚D1の存在範囲は160 オングストローム近傍かあるいは450 オングストローム

~ 550 オングストローム程度となるので、膜厚D1及びD2の範囲をさらに限定することができる。これにより偏光解析方式による膜厚測定範囲を限定することができ、膜厚測定精度を向上することができる。

【0036】すなわち、本実施の形態に係る膜厚測定装置によれば、膜厚の不明な試料を与えられても、分光反射率方式で膜厚の範囲を限定し、1000 オングストローム以下の薄膜であることが判明すれば偏光解析方式で概算値に基づいた膜厚算出を行い、数1000 オングストローム ~ 数10 μm の膜厚であることが判明すれば分光反射率方式での測定値を用いるので、予め膜厚情報を用なくとも膜厚の測定を精度良く行うことができる。さらに、薄膜領域でも分光反射率方式で膜厚の概算値を求めることができるので、偏光解析方式を用いた際の測定精度を向上させることができる。

【0037】したがって、任意の膜厚を持つ多層膜に対し、膜厚を数10 μm から1000 オングストローム以下の薄膜に至るまで精度良く測定することができる。

【0038】なお、本発明は実施の形態に限定されるものではない。すなわち、上述した実施の形態においては、分光反射率方式により測定しているが、白色干渉方式にて測定を行ってもよい。このほか、本発明の要旨を逸脱しない範囲で種々変形実施可能であるのは勿論である。

【0039】【発明の効果】本発明によれば、試料に光を入射させその反射光を検出して分光反射率方式若しくは白色干渉方式により多層膜の下層の膜厚範囲を決定するとともに、最上層の膜厚範囲を決定し、この膜厚範囲に基づいて、偏光した光を試料に入射させその反射光の偏光状態を解析して最上層の膜厚を測定するようにしたので、偏光解析を行う場合において、信号の分離を行うことができ、高精度な膜厚測定を行うことが可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の一実施の形態に係る膜厚測定装置の構成を示す図。

【図2】分光反射率方式による膜厚測定の原理を示す説明図。

【図3】分光反射率方式を二層膜に適用する場合の原理を示す説明図。

【図4】 $D_2 = 0$ オングストローム近傍であるときの分光スペクトルを示す図。

【図5】 $D_2 = 1500$ オングストローム近傍であるときの分光スペクトルを示す図。

【図6】 $D_2 = 1500$ オングストローム近傍のときの*

* C_i と D₁ の関係を示す図。

【図7】偏光解析方式によって得られる tan Ψ , Δ , D₁, D₂ の関係を示す図。

【符号の説明】

10 … 膜厚測定装置

11, 12 … 測定系

20 … 演算部

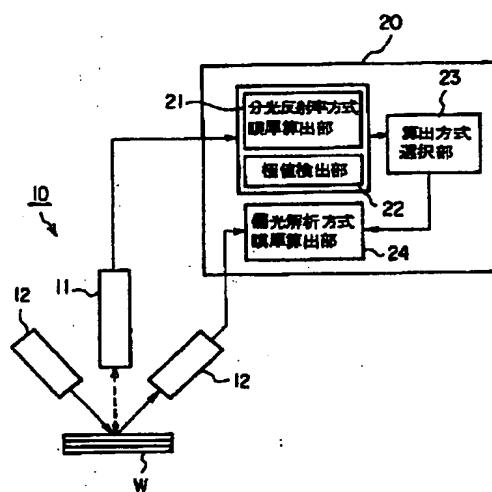
21 … 分光反射率方式膜厚算出部

22 … 極値検出部

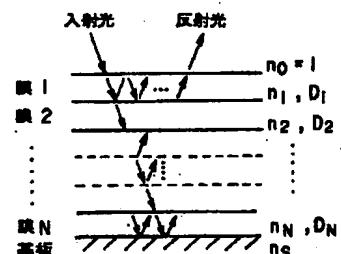
23 … 算出方式選択部

24 … 偏光解析方式膜厚算出部

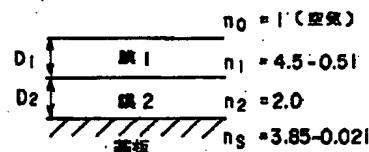
【図1】



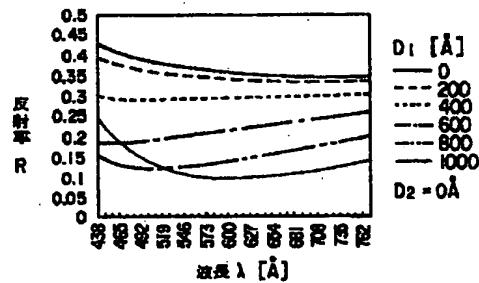
【図2】



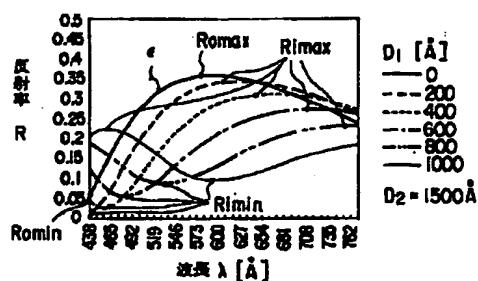
【図3】



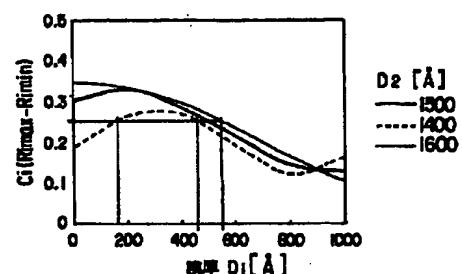
【図4】



【図5】



【図6】



【図7】

